

In the Claims:

1       1. **(currently amended)** A clamping mechanism for clamping at  
2       least two structural components to each other other, said  
3       clamping mechanism comprising a clamping bail forming a  
4       clamping opening, a first clamping section (9) carried by  
5       said clamping bail to face across said clamping opening, a  
6       second clamping section (10) carried by said clamping bail  
7       to face across said clamping opening in alignment with said  
8       first clamping section (9), said first clamping section  
9       comprising a guide element (11) for guiding a drill bit DB,  
10      a removable centering pin (12) axially movable in said  
11      guide element (11) for aiding in positioning a first  
12      structural component of said at least two structural  
13      components in a correct drilling position, and wherein said  
14      second clamping section (10) comprises a pressure member  
15      (15) and a clamping drive for pressing said pressure member  
16      (15) against a second structural component of said at least  
17      two structural components and against said first structural  
18      component to establish a clamped position for said at least  
19      two structural components. components, said clamping  
20      mechanism further comprising an adapter (20) secured to  
21      said first clamping section (9) in axial alignment with  
22      said guide element for holding a drill in an aligned  
23      drilling position, and wherein said adapter (20) comprises  
24      a locking device for locking said drill to said first  
25      clamping section (9).

1       2. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       guide element (11) is constructed as a drill bushing for  
3       first guiding said centering pin (12) and for then guiding  
4       said drill bit (DB) after removal of said centering pin  
5       (12) from said drill bushing (11).

claims 3 and 4 (cancelled).

1       5. (currently amended) The clamping mechanism of ~~claim 3~~ claim  
2       1, wherein said locking device of said adapter (20) is a  
3       chuck for locking said drill to said first clamping section  
4       (9).

1       6. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       clamping drive comprises a cam (13A), an eccentric mounting  
3       (14) rotatably securing said cam (13A) to said second  
4       clamping section (10) and a drive lever (13) secured to  
5       said cam for rotating said cam against said pressure member  
6       (15).

1       7. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       clamping drive comprises a clamping screw (21) rotatably  
3       mounted in said second clamping section, said clamping  
4       screw having a free end forming said pressure member (15).

1       8. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       clamping drive comprises a clamping push rod (22) slidably  
3       and rotatably mounted in said second clamping section and

4       an operating lever (23) secured to one end of said clamping  
5       push rod, said clamping push rod having a free end forming  
6       said pressure member (15).

1       9. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       clamping drive comprises a piston cylinder device mounted  
3       to said second clamping section, said piston cylinder  
4       device comprising a piston having a free end forming said  
5       pressure member (15).

1       10. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, further  
2       comprising a suction device (17) communicating with said  
3       guide element (11) for sucking drill chips out of said  
4       guide element.

1       11. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       guide element (11) comprises a hollow guide channel in said  
3       first clamping section (9), said hollow guide channel being  
4       axially aligned with said pressure member (15) in said  
5       second clamping section.

1       12. (original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said  
2       pressure member (15) comprises a free end for contacting  
3       said other structural component and a dead end bore or  
4       cavity (15A) in said pressure member in axial alignment  
5       with said guide element (11), said dead end bore opening  
6       into said free end of the pressure member wherein said free  
7       end of the pressure member, in a clamping position

8 surrounds a structural component area through which a hole  
9 is being drilled and a drill bit tip can enter into said  
bore or cavity (15A) when a hole drilling is completed.

- 1 13. (new) A clamping mechanism for clamping at least two  
2 structural components to each other, said clamping  
3 mechanism comprising a clamping bail forming a clamping  
4 opening, a first clamping section (9) carried by said  
5 clamping bail to face across said clamping opening, a  
6 second clamping section (10) carried by said clamping bail  
7 to face across said clamping opening in alignment with said  
8 first clamping section (9), said first clamping section  
9 comprising a guide element (11) for guiding a drill bit, a  
10 removable centering pin (12) axially movable in said guide  
11 element (11) for aiding in positioning a first structural  
12 component of said at least two structural components in a  
13 correct drilling position, and wherein said second clamping  
14 section (10) comprises a pressure member (15) and a  
15 clamping drive for pressing said pressure member (15)  
16 against a second structural component of said at least two  
17 structural components and against said first structural  
18 component to establish a clamped position for said at least  
19 two structural components, and wherein said clamping drive  
20 comprises a clamping push rod (22) slidably and rotatably  
21 mounted in said second clamping section and an operating  
22 lever (23) secured to one end of said clamping push rod,  
23 said clamping push rod having a free end forming said  
24 pressure member (15).